

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO JACK BLUM, SENATE FOREIGN
RELATIONS COMMITTEE STAFF.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, GW

SUBJECT: SENATE HEARINGS ON LOCKHEED

REF: BONN 2247

1. WILHELM KNITTEL, WHO IS DESCRIBED AS THE PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE OF FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS SENT
TO OBSERVE THE HEARINGS OF THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS ON ACTIVITIES OF LOCKHEED,
SAID IN AN INTERVIEW FEBRUARY 10 WITH DPA (DEUTSCHE
PRESSE AGENTUR) THAT WHILE IN WASHINGTON HE WAS ASSURED
BY TWO MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF THAT HIS PARTY,
THE CSU, WOULD BE "SATISFIED" WITH THE RESULTS OF THE
HEARINGS. CSU PRESS SPOKESMAN DIETER KIEHL STATED THE
SAME DAY THAT THE "CAMPAIGN" IN THE MASS MEDIA AGAINST
THE CSU HAD NOW COLLAPSED SINCE THE CHAIRMAN OF LOCKHEED
UNDER OATH HAD SAID HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY PAYMENTS
TO THE CSU. ON FEBRUARY 9, FRG OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN
BOELLING TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO
SERIOUS REASON TO INITIATE AN INVESTIGATION INTO POSSIBLE
LOCKHEED PAYMENTS TO POLITICAL PARTIES. HE SAID HIS
IMPRESSION WAS THAT THERE WAS NO HARD EVIDENCE FOR SUCH
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ACCUSATIONS.

2. FOLLOWING A CABINET MEETING ON FEBRUARY 11, BOELLING TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE CABINET HAD DISCUSSED THE ALLEGED CORRUPTION. HE ADDED THAT VON RATH, THE INVESTIGATOR FROM THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF DEFENSE WHO HAD GONE TO THE U.S. TO LOOK OVER THE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE THAT THE CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE POSSESSED, WAS RETURNING TO BONN. HE SAID RATH HAD EXAMINED ALL THE IMPORTANT EVIDENCE AND REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY THERE WAS NO ACTION TO TAKE. BOELLING ADDED THAT THE MATTER OF INDICATIONS IN AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS THAT MONEY WAS GIVEN TO FRG POLITICAL PARTIES COULD BE CONSIDERED AS CLOSED. LATER THE SAME DAY, HOWEVER, A SPOKESMAN OF THE SPD FACTION IN THE BUNDESTAG (FEDERAL PARLIAMENT) TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE PARTY WAS CONSIDERING MAKING A DEMAND THAT A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY BE ESTABLISHED TO LOOK INTO THE QUESTION OF BRIBERY ACTIVITY BY LOCKHEED IN GERMANY. ALSO ON FEBRUARY 11, THE BAVARIAN SPD APPEALED TO THE BUNDESTAG FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A COMMISSION. (BAVARIA IS THE HOME AREA OF STRAUSS AND THE CSU.) THE DEMAND FOR A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY WAS THE MAIN STORY IN MORNING NEWSPAPERS FEBRUARY 12.

3. EDITORIAL COMMENT WAS MIXED ON THE VALUE OF THE SENATE INVESTIGATION. THE RHEINISCHE POST DESCRIBES THE INVESTIGATION, ALONG WITH THOSE OF THE CIA, WATERGATE, ETC., AS PART OF THE PROCESS OF SELF-TORTURE AND SELF-PURGING THAT THE U.S. HAS INDULGED IN SINCE THE RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT NIXON. NOT SATISFIED WITH INTERNAL WASHING OF DIRTY LINEN IN PUBLIC, THE U.S. HAS NOW SPREAD ITS INVESTIGATIONS TO BESMIRCH EUROPEAN AND JAPANESE LEADERS, AND MAY, IF THE CHARGES AGAINST PRINCE BERNHARD ARE SUBSTANTIATED, CAUSE THE ABDICATION OF QUEEN JULIANA. THE STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG SAYS THAT THE MENTION OF ITALIAN POLITICAL LEADERS HAS SHAKEN THE MORAL FOUNDATION OF THE TWO POLITICAL PARTIES THAT HAVE BEEN MOST FAITHFUL TO AMERICA. THE KOELNER STADT ANZIEGER, ON THE OTHER HAND, TAKES THE VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE A GOOD THING IF OTHER NATIONS TOOK THE INITIATIVE.

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IVE TO MAKE THEIR OWN INVESTIGATIONS AND FOLLOW THE AMERICAN EXAMPLE OF A CAMPAIGN FOR HIGHER POLITICAL MORALITY.
CROWLEY

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